

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7-8, 2008

Prepared on January 31, 2008

ITEM NUMBER: 15

SUBJECT: County of Santa Barbara Phase II Storm Water Permit Status Report

DISCUSSION

Water Board staff is providing a copy of the letter sent to the County of Santa Barbara explaining the results of Water Board staff's review of the County's Annual Report on implementation of their Storm Water Management Program (SWMP)(Attachment 1). This letter also contains requirements on the County to submit additional information about implementation of their SWMP and the best management practices.

Water Board staff is also providing comment letters and attachments, submitted in response to the Staff Report for this item, from the County of Santa Barbara (Attachment 2), and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (Attachment 3 and 3a-3f).. Water Board staff will address the letters and attachments at the Board Meeting, as necessary.

Water Board staff also provides the following discussion regarding a complaint submitted by Water Board Chair Jeff Young concerning animal waste on Santa Barbara County beaches. Mr. Young provided a complaint and documenting photos in October 2007 about horse manure that he observed on the beach at Hope Ranch. Mr. Young asked staff to inquire of Santa Barbara County how they plan to address this as part of their SWMP. Staff spoke with the County regarding the issue. County staff stated that during development of their Project Clean Water program, they had addressed the problem of horse manure by a) limiting horse access to only two beaches in the County, and, b) encouraging owners to pick up after their horses by providing signage, educational brochures, horse manure container bins and shovels.

County staff indicated that horse owners who access the beach from County-maintained parking lots have shown responsibility about cleaning up manure from the parking lot. However, staff indicated that horse owners accessing the beach from Hope Ranch are not as receptive to picking up after their horses. The County finds it difficult to enforce horse waste violations on the beach due to repeated avoidance by horse owners. The County feels that such an effort does not provide a major water quality benefit and their resources would be best used protecting water quality elsewhere. The County contacted the Hope Ranch Home Owners Association this fall regarding water quality

concerns and provided educational brochures for distribution. The County stated that the best way to prevent horse manure on the beach is to restrict horse access entirely; an approach that they anticipate would generate significant public controversy.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Water Board staff, letter January 28, 2008
2. County of Santa Barbara, letter January 30, 2008
3. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, letter and attachments January 30, 2008
 - 3a. RWQCB draft ordinance comments, January 25, 2007
 - 3b. Channelkeeper storm water ordinance comments, August 9, 2007
 - 3c. Channelkeeper EHS Food Facility Inspection memo, October 30, 2007
 - 3d. Channelkeeper Business inspection program email
 - 3e. Channelkeeper Hope Ranch complaint letter, September 17, 2007
 - 3f. Channelkeeper Budget Expansion Request, May 7, 2007